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CEAUSESCU'S ROMANIA

ANNCR:

IN BUCHAREST, A NATIONAL POLITICAL EDUCATION AND CULTURAL CONGRESS ENDED FRIDAY. SPEAKING AT THE CONGRESS, ROMANIAN PRESIDENT NICOLAE CEAUSESCU REPEATED ROMANIAN POLICIES ON RELATIONS AMONG COMMUNIST COUNTRIES STRESSING INDEPENDENCE OF EACH PARTY. AT THE SAME TIME, HE DISCOURAGED EMIGRATION FROM ROMANIA AND CALLED FOR A LINKING OF CULTURAL EDUCATION WITH ECONOMIC PRODUCTION. VOA CORRESPONDENT MARK HOPKINS HAS A BACKGROUND REPORT FROM OUR EUROPEAN BUREAU.

VOICE:

PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU FINDS HIMSELF AND ROMANIA IN DIFFICULT TIMES. FOR ONE, THE SOVIET UNION IS ENGAGED IN A POLITICAL PRESSURE CAMPAIGN ALL ACROSS ITS WESTERN BORDERS, AS MOSCOW PRESSES FOR A EUROPEAN COMMUNIST CONGRESS.

ROMANIA HAS BEEN BROUGHT INTO THIS. TWO HIGH LEVEL SOVIET OFFICIALS HAVE HAD TALKS WITH PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU IN THE PAST TWO WEEKS. AND IN HIS POLICY ADDRESS IN BUCHAREST TO HIS OWN COMMUNIST PARTY CADRES, PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU TOOK A DEFENSIVE POSITION, EXPLAINING ONCE MORE THAT ROMANIA DOES NOT ACCEPT A MOSCOW-CENTERED COMMUNIST MOVEMENT.

BUT PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU DID TRY TO DELIVER THE MESSAGE EASILY. HE TOLD THE SOVIET UNION THAT ROMANIA HAS NO TERRITORIAL CLAIMS -- THIS CLEARLY DEALING WITH THE ONE-TIME BESSARABIA, INCORPORATED THIRTY-SIX YEARS AGO BY THE SOVIET UNION. SOVIET AND ROMANIAN HISTORIANS HAVE DISPUTED THE REGION, BUT PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU SEEMED TO SAY TO MOSCOW THAT ROMANIA DOESN'T WANT FRICTION.

HE TOLD MOSCOW, TOO, THAT EVEN IF SOMEDAY IN THE FUTURE THE WARSAW PACT AND NATO MILITARY ALLIANCES WERE DISSOLVED, THERE WOULD BE CLOSE COOPERATION ALONG THE SOVIET AND EAST EUROPEAN MILITARY MACHINES.

THERE SEEMS, NONETHELESS, AN UNDERCURRENT OF UNEASE IN ROMANIA. WESTERN SOURCES REPORT THAT ROMANIAN ARMY RESERVES WERE CALLED UP LATE LAST MONTH. THERE WAS PANIC BUYING OF FOODS IN BUCHAREST, ENOUGH, THESE SOURCES SAY, THAT THE SHOPS QUICKLY RESTOCKED TO ALLEVIATE PUBLIC APPREHENSION FUELED BY RUMORS OF SOVIET MILITARY MOVES.

TO THE WEST, ROMANIA HAS ANOTHER PROBLEM. DESPITE THE HELSINKI AGREEMENT, EMIGRATION FROM ROMANIA REMAINS DIFFICULT. A VISIT TO SWEDEN BY ROMANIA'S FOREIGN MINISTER WAS CALLED OFF LAST MONTH BECAUSE OF DISAGREEMENT OVER FAMILY REUNIFICATION. THE FRENCH ARE EXPECTED TO RAISE THE SAME ISSUE WHEN FRANCE'S FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS BUCHAREST. AT THE SAME TIME, PRESIDENT FORD HAS ASKED THE AMERICAN CONGRESS TO CONTINUE TRADE BENEFITS TO ROMANIA THAT ARE LINKED WITH FREER EMIGRATION.

BUT PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU HAS SAID LITTLE IN HIS BUCHAREST SPEECH TO SUGGEST THAT ROMANIA IS OPENING ITS BORDERS. HE SAID, ALMOST THE REVERSE. IF FAMILIES WANT TO RE-UNITE HE SAID, THEY SHOULD AND CAN DO SO IN ROMANIA. HE SAID THE PROPER PLACE OF ROMANIAN CITIZENS -- WHETHER ROMANIAN, JEWISH, GERMAN OR HUNGARIAN NATIONALITY -- IS IN ROMANIA.

GH/RCS